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German Militarists & Another "SCRAP OF PAPER"

By the Editor

When the Kaiser's armies marched into Belgium in 1914 at the outbreak of World War One, German politicians stated that the formal pledge which had been given to respect Belgian neutrality was only a "scrap of paper".

When Adolf Hitler's armies marched into countries which thought they were protected by formal German assurances, they discovered that these assurances were only scraps of paper.

Today, the West German state ruled by Konrad Adenauer, with the connivance of other NATO states, is turning into a "scrap of paper" the Paris Treaties of 1954 which imposed supposedly binding limitations upon the scope of West German re-armament.

In 1954 there was strong opposition in the British Labour Party and trade union movement to the re-armament of West Germany, but a large part of this opposition was stilled by pledges from both Conservative and Labour leaders that the Paris Treaties would strictly limit the types of arms with which the new West German armed forces were equipped.

Now these limitations are being evaded or cancelled: this possibility was forecast in a far-sighted speech delivered to the House of Lords on November 23rd 1954 by the Labour peer Lord Winster, who said: "The controls under the new agreement only exist on paper, and history has shown exclusively that a nation such as Germany can always 'diddle' an armaments control agency once it has set its mind to doing so. It is wishful thinking to suppose that West Germany ... will not, little by little, create the forces she wants, and arm them as she pleases".

The situation which Lord Winster foresaw five years ago is now coming to pass.

On the last two occasions when the German militarists tore up a "scrap of paper" it was too late to stop them without war. Don't let it be too late this time.

Rockets, Battleships, U-Boats for Bonn Militarists

As the year 1959 drew to a close West Germany was driving ahead for unlimited armaments. The arms limitations imposed upon West Germany when it joined NATO in 1954 were being evaded or cancelled.

Here are just some of the steps being taken to make West Germany the most powerful military force in western Europe:

1. On December 3rd the General Assembly of the Western European Union, meeting in Paris, recommended that the Paris Treaties of 1954 should be amended, permitting West Germany to build warships of up to 6000 tons (double the present limit), and U-boats of up to 1000 tons (three times the present limit. The Assembly also recommended that West Germany be allowed to develop its own naval surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles and influence mines, all of which were banned by the Paris Treaties.

2. On December 3rd the British and West German Ministers of Defence agreed in Bonn to cooperate in the production of the "Blue Water" rocket, a guided missile with nuclear warhead. West German scientific work on this nuclear weapon would represent an evasion of the Paris Treaties, which only stated that West Germany undertakes not to manufacture "on its territory" any atomic weapons. The West German Wehrmacht would be able to have control of the nuclear warheads for these rockets, if the warheads are made in Britain, a spokesman of the Bonn Defence Ministry stated.

3. On December 4th the West German Wehrmacht conducted test firings of the first three "Honest John" guided missiles which can be equipped with nuclear warheads, supplied by the United States. The test firing, attended by high-ranking Wehrmacht officers, all of whom served in key posts under Hitler, was held at the Bergen-Hohnen testing grounds, a mile or two away from the site of the nazi concentration camp of Belsen.

4. One-quarter of the West German budget for 1960, published at the beginning of December, was

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devoted to military purposes. The budget totals expenditure of nearly 42 thousand million marks, of which over 10 thousand million (over £ 800 million) will be devoted to the West German army, navy and airforce. The budget fixes expenditure on naval building at 343 million marks (nothing in 1959), "military tests including atomic, biological and chemical defence" at 51 million marks (five million in 1959), and arms research at 40 million marks (against an average of 20 million in the past four years). The budget foresees an increase in the strength of the armed forces to 340,000 men in 1960 (280,000 in 1959).

5. On December 9th the Defence Committee of the West German Parliament approved the purchase from America of a "large number" of "Mace" missiles, a rocket with a range of 600 miles which can only be used with nuclear warheads.

(For comparison: the armed forces of the German Democratic Republic have small coastal defence vessels and mine sweepers, but no submarines or larger warships; there are no rocket-weapons, with or without nuclear warheads, in the German Democratic Republic; no scientists from the German Democratic Republic are working on the military use of nuclear energy, either inside or outside the Democratic Republic; the budget of the GDR for 1960 allotted just under one thousand million marks to defence purposes, only one-tenth of the West German figure.)

Fares Rocket in West Berlin

Fares in West Berlin trams and underground trains will be nearly twice as high as in East Berlin from January 2nd 1960. After this date a single fare in West Berlin will be 35 pfennigs as against 20 in East Berlin and after midnight it will be 60 pfennigs as against 20. The only exception will be the elevated city railway or "S-Bahn", run by Democratic Germany throughout the city, which will continue to offer a 20-pfennig flat rate fare.

In all parts of Democratic Germany transportation and public utility rates are 30 to 50 % cheaper than the corresponding rates in West Germany or West Berlin.

Adenauer & the Olympics

By our Sports Correspondent

West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, aged 83, is well above the average age for participation in the Olympic Games. He tried hard to get into the act, nevertheless, but as we go to press it looked as though he had lost.

Here is the story: although there have been two German states since 1949 – the German Federal Republic (West) and the German Democratic Republic (East) – the International Olympic Committee, which runs the games, has decided that Germany shall be represented by only one team.

Sports organisations in both halves of Germany have agreed with this ruling, and at the 1956 Olympic Games the German athletes from East and West appeared as one team, despite sporadic efforts by the West German Government to prevent this. They carried one flag – the black-red-gold banner which at that time was the official flag of both German states – wore the same emblem – black-red-gold decorated with the five Olympic rings – and stood to attention when the band played a few bars from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, instead of either the West German or the East German national anthem.

Since October 1959 the German Democratic Republic has had a different flag than West Germany; the East German Parliament decided that the Democratic Republic could not continue to fly the same flag as West Germany, a flag which has been compromised in the eyes of the world by remilitarisation in West Germany. The new flag of Democratic Germany consists of the old black-red-gold banner, with the coat of arms consisting of hammer and compasses imposed upon it.

The authorities in West Germany took the introduction of the new flag as an opportunity to try to torpedo German unity in the field of sport. "A German team going to the Olympic Games can only march behind the unsullied banner of the Federal Republic", stated a government spokesman in Bonn. Athletes from the German Democratic Republic, on the other hand, stated that they could not participate under a flag which to them represented re-nazification and re-armament. They proposed that some sort of "neutral" flag should be carried, just as a "neutral" anthem was to be played.

The International Olympic Committee agreed that this was a good idea, and on November 17th Avery Brundage, American President of the International Committee, laid down that the all-German team should march behind a "neutral" flag consisting of the black-red-gold banner with the five Olympic rings superimposed upon it.

It was a sensible compromise, and everything seemed to be settled, when Chancellor Adenauer decided to get into the act. On November 20th he suddenly announced that it would be "an insult for the German nation" if West German athletes went to the Olympic Games with this neutral flag.

When the West German sports' organisers did not immediately spring to attention and agree with him, Adenauer ordered them to come and see him. In the past he has nearly always been successful in bullying obstreperous opponents into line, but this time he failed. The representatives of the West German National Olympic Committee told him that the "neutral flag" had been proposed by the International Olympic Committee, and the decision would have to be accepted. Otherwise Germany would be represented at the Olympic Games solely by a team from the German Democratic Republic. Adenauer would not credit his ears. He sent the Olympic Committee away to reconsider its decision, and his press chief, Fritz von Eckhardt, stated categorically: "The West German Government cannot and will not accept any change in its flag."

On December 6th, the members of the National Olympic Committee of West Germany met in plenary session, and unanimously agreed to accept the flag with the five Olympic rings, the flag which Adenauer had described as "an insult for the German nation".

So unless Dr Adenauer thinks out some new trick, the German athletes from East and West Germany will appear as one team at the Olympic Games. By standing up to Adenauer they have maintained one of the few links still holding the two parts of Germany together.

British Children to Holiday in GDR

Groups of children of British trade union members will spend their holidays in Democratic Germany and their parents will also have the opportunity of visiting holiday or convalescent homes in the mountains or on the seacoast there. These were two points of a working agreement between the British Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians and a delegation from the Chemical Workers' Union of the GDR which visited Britain in November.

NEHRU ANGERS BONN

GDR Welcomes Indian Statement

The West German Government was thrown into confusion at the beginning of December, when Indian Prime Minister Nehru stated at a press conference in New Delhi that as far as he could see nobody wanted German re-unification at present.

In an amplification of his views after the press conference, Nehru said: "None of the existing governments want German re-unification under the present circumstances, except on their own conditions, conditions which are unacceptable to other governments. This produces a deadlock which cannot be removed as long as conditions remain the same" (re-translated from German).

The West German Government immediately made a formal protest in New Delhi, and West German newspapers angrily accused Nehru of "extreme ignorance".

On December 9th Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, issued a statement welcoming Nehru's declaration as "factual and well-considered".

In his declaration Walter Ulbricht stated in part:

"We understand Prime Minister Nehru as meaning that at present he can see no realistic prospect of re-unification, and that he is convinced that the governments of the big powers do not reckon at present with such prospects, particularly since the West German Government clings to its unrealistic conception of conquering the GDR.

"It is perfectly correct to say that the conditions laid down for re-unification by the German militarists and the 25 monopoly groups which hold power in West Germany are completely unacceptable.

"On the other hand, Prime Minister Nehru knows that the Government of the GDR does not adopt an inflexible 'all or nothing' position on this question. The German Democratic Republic is a state of workers and peasants, but it has not demanded that West Germany should become socialist, or that the social system of the German Democratic Republic should be imposed upon West Germany. It has only insisted that there should be negotiations between the two German states on the creation of a peaceable democratic Germany from which German militarism shall be banished once and for all. The Bonn Government rejects both negotiations and an understanding. We believe that this attitude is not in accordance with the desires of the West German population.

"The re-unification of Germany has in fact been blocked since militarism made its come-back in West Germany, with its preparations for war and its nuclear armament. It is obvious that the German people can only be reunified when they are freed from the fear that they will be plunged into a nuclear war by the German militarists.

"The Government of the GDR has proposed to the Government of West Germany an agreement on the renunciation of the use of force in relations between the two German states. This proposal too has been rejected by the Bonn Government. Prime Minister Nehru, who himself rejects the use of force in international affairs, will understand that our proposal was intended to prevent military provocation and civil war in Germany, which could drag the world into the abyss of a new world war.

"The Bonn Government and the circles which support it are so upset by Nehru's statement because they see that he does not and will not recognise Bonn's claim to exclusivity ...

"The Bonn Government accuses us of being in favour of a neutralisation of Germany. We reply that both the people of the German Democratic Republic and the majority of the people of West Germany would far prefer a peaceable, democratic and neutral Germany to atomic arms and a new war of revenge ...

"I am convinced that the majority of the German people agree with me when I say that German re-unification can only be achieved by international relaxation of tension, disarmament, and an understanding between the two German states."

T. U. HOLIDAY SHIP

Democratic Germany's first large passenger vessel will soon put out to sea with the first shipload of trade union holiday-makers aboard; winter cruises to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean will later be followed by summer trips to more northerly waters. One summer trip will bring visitors from the GDR to the Olympic Games in Rome.

The 12,400 ton cruise ship — formerly the "Stockholm" — was purchased from Sweden with foreign currency raised in a voluntary campaign for the over-fulfillment of export targets. The luxury vessel will be re-named "Voelkerfreundschaft" ("International Friendship").

At the end of November the keel of another cruise liner, also for trade union holidays, was laid in the Baltic shipyards of Democratic Germany. In the years ahead, a whole fleet of such ships will be bought or built for this purpose. They will largely be paid for with the funds from the "Vacation Ship Campaign" which started in a small perfume and soap factory, whose workers pledged to increase export production. The idea soon spread all over the country. Workers who gave most help in this campaign will get top priority for the low-cost vacation cruises.

"Dear Archbishop . . ."

GDR Pastor Writes to Archbishop of Canterbury

Pastor Ludwig Rodenberg of Kartlow, Neubrandenburg, in the German Democratic Republic, recently addressed an open letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury dealing with the position of the church in the German Democratic Republic. Here is the text of the letter, slightly shortened:

Most Reverend Archbishop,

West German newspapers, including the "Welt" of Hamburg, recently printed news reports headlined "The Church in the East Zone Fights for its Life", etc. These reports included a number of your statements — quoted from the news-bulletin of your arch-diocese. These statements were used by the West German press with the obvious aim of sharpening cold war tensions between the two parts of Germany; I therefore feel the need to answer them, especially since I cannot presume that the Archbishop of Canterbury would allow himself to be drawn into a cold war which could easily prepare the way for a hot war. I am prevented from so believing by my experiences at the Ecumenical Congress of Stockholm in 1925 and Prague in 1928, when I had the opportunity of meeting your late and honoured predecessors.

Your statement that the Church is engaged in a life and death struggle in the "Soviet Zone" — the German Democratic Republic — filled me with amazement. Twenty-one years ago I was forced by the pressure of National Socialism inside the Evangelical Church to withdraw from my position in a large church organisation ... Since 1945 I have been able to observe all political and church developments here at first hand from my position; today, at 70 years of age, I am still taking an active part in life. On the basis of this experience I should like to make the following observations.

1. One week after the Soviet troops marched into our area it was announced that all church activities, teaching activities and religious services might at once be resumed freely. (On only one Sunday was I unable to hold services.) Even those members of the clergy who had praised the Hitler party till the last minute remained in their positions.

2. Church possessions of land and other real estate were recognised as legitimate property and were not expropriated and divided up under the land reform.

3. From 1945 until the present there has never been any kind of restriction on church life. When West Germany — presumably the source of your information — asserts the contrary, then those of us who know better can only smile pityingly — just as we smile pityingly at West Germany's assertions that it is the sole Christian state and represents all of Germany.

4. In the GDR, just as in all the world, there is of course a conflict in philosophical questions, the same conflict which we were drawn into fifty years ago as young men and which made it difficult for me at first to decide to study theology. This struggle seems to me very much more serious in the Federal Republic of Germany than here; the path of atomic armaments is far more dangerous for our people and the world than an open discussion between Christians and atheists.

5. It is also untrue that the "civic initiation ceremonies" for children leaving school are a weapon against the church, as asserted in the West. It has turned out instead that the radical directives of the Church — that children must make a final choice between church confirmation and these civic initiation ceremonies — can no longer be upheld, because they do not conform to the facts of the situation. The church confirmation ceremony must continue, perhaps with a few needed improvements, for all children of Protestant parents who seriously desire it. The civic initiation ceremonies are also open to all children, and I have seen for myself at several such ceremonies that they contain no anti-Christian agitation.

6. The assertion that "practicing Christians" in the government service or other professions "cannot get anywhere" is also a lie. Whoever joins in promoting policies of peace and international friendship — as every Christian should feel himself impelled to do — need never make any secret of his Christian beliefs. He will be just as respected in his position as the Protestant Deputy Prime Minister or the Protestant Chairman of the People's Chamber are respected, and he will likewise be able to play his part in national life and activities.

7. Finally, allow me to reject the assertion that clerical or lay members of the Church are imprisoned in the GDR "because of completely unfounded charges". I fear that the GDR has been confused with the Federal Republic in this case, for hundreds of Christians and non-Christians are confined in West German prisons only because they have worked for peace, the recognition of the GDR and the reunification of Germany. In the GDR there are no prison or penitentiary sentences which are not based on a clear violation of the laws of the land.

8. The course of history will decide whether the bishops and church leadership in both parts of Germany have done enough or are now doing enough to "uphold faith and hope" — the decision will not be easy.

Yours, etc.

Ludwig Rodenberg

Glass Cow Makes Friends

One of the hits in the World Agricultural Fair which opened in New Delhi in mid-December was the "glass cow" shown in the exhibit of the German Democratic Republic. The cow, called "Heidi", is used to demonstrate the various bovine organs, bones and bloodvessels, which light up when a button is pressed. It was manufactured by the Dresden Hygiene Museum, which also makes glass "men" and "women".

Other features of the GDR pavilion include a moving model of a cooperactive farm and agricultural machinery adaptable to conditions in India.

West Germany had turned down the invitation to exhibit in New Delhi, allegedly because of lack of finances.

BOAC – Lufthansa Deal

The British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) signed an inter-line traffic agreement with Democratic Germany's Lufthansa in early December. This was the 29th such agreement between the GDR air line and foreign companies. A similar arrangement had been made with British European Airways (BEA) in July this year.

UNESCO Figures Show GDR Shines

The number of school-children per teacher in the German Democratic Republic is lower than in most other countries of the world, according to figures given in the "International Yearbook of Education", recently published by UNESCO.

Tables compiled by the London "Times Educational Supplement" from this yearbook, and published on November 13th, show that in primary and secondary schools combined, the Democratic Republic has a pupil-teacher ratio of 24.2. The ratio is lower only in the Soviet Union, Sweden and Italy, and in Italy the figure is favoured by the classification of religious as teachers, the "Times Educational Supplement" notes. In the listing the German Democratic Republic is followed by the United Kingdom (pupil-teacher ratio 25.9) Denmark (27.8), Canada (27.8), USA (29.1), and West Germany (31.9).

Commenting on the listing, the "Times Educational Supplement" noted that "East Germany has pulled away from West Germany.".

Ten Years Schooling for All

All boys and girls in the German Democratic will have a minimum of ten years at school under the terms of an Education Act passed by the People's Chamber of the GDR on December 2nd.

Main points of the new law, which in part codifies reforms in the school system which have already been put into effect, are as follows:

1. By 1964 ten years compulsory schooling will be introduced for all boys and girls. This will be followed by two years of part-time compulsory trade school or by high school.

2. All education will be on a polytechnical basis.

(GERMAN REPORT will publish a longer article explaining the new Education Act in an early issue.)

Trade with Sweden, Holland Upped

Trade experts from Sweden and Democratic Germany agreed December 5th on exchanges for the year 1960 amounting to 150,000,000 marks (about £12,500,000). The GDR will export chemicals, coal briquettes, cars and a wide variety of machinery and precision instruments in return for Swedish iron and steel.

An extension of the trade agreement with the Netherlands for 1960 was also negotiated early in December. Trade worth 147 million marks was foreseen, almost 30 % more than the 1959 figures.

West German Police Swoop on Underground Press

West German police, in large scale raids on December 10th and 11th, arrested more than 50 persons alleged to be implicated in publication of underground Communist newspapers in West Germany. The West German Communist Party and its press has had to work underground since 1956 when it was banned by the courts.

Official West German spokesmen claimed that the underground Communist Party had been able to publish about 300 different newspapers despite the ban, and distribute a total of some 5 million copies every month.

The police raids were particularly concentrated in the province of North Rhine Westphalia, where the plain clothes police branches in most cities are headed by former SS officers, many of whom made similar raids on underground Communist print-shops during the nazi era. They claimed they had discovered the printing press responsible for producing "Freies Volk", central organ of the Communist Party.

The picture reproduced below shows the title pages of a number of the underground Communist newspapers.

People's Chamber Makes New "End-Tension Bid"

The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic made a new appeal to West Germany on December 2nd for measures to end tension in Germany, and to bring the two German states closer together. The appeal, addressed to the West German Parliament and all parties and organisations in West Germany, called for support for the following programme:

1. Immediate ending of all nuclear weapon tests, and no German participation in such tests.

2. Renunciation of nuclear arms: participation in an atom-free zone in Central Europe: renunciation of the production or purchase of atomic, bacteriological or chemical weapons.

3. Immediate arms stop, reduction of armed forces, cancellation of conscription.

4. Step-by-step withdrawal of all foreign troops from East and West Germany: abolition of foreign military bases on German territory.

5. Support for a non-aggression pact between the NATO states and the Warsaw Pact states.

6. A ban on all forms of war propaganda and revenge propaganda.

7. The establishment of an all-German council to prepare a peace treaty and the re-unification of Germany.

WHY THEY COME EAST

By Peter Gellert

"In the last war I served as a volunteer. I was in Russia, in Stalingrad," 35-year-old Werner Lutmer from Hamburg told me the other day in East Berlin. "When I came back from the POW camp I swore to myself — never again! Never shall I touch a gun again. When I became eligible for the call-up in West Germany I decided to leave. Now I live with my wife and my three-year-old child in Magdeburg in the German Democratic Republic. Nobody bothers me. I have a good job. No, I am not a member of any party."

We were talking together during an interval in a very interesting conference held in a hall belonging to a large East Berlin factory. The conference had been arranged by the National Front of Democratic Germany. Present were about 400 people who had recently emigrated from West Germany to live in the GDR — workers, clerks, farmers, students, doctors and technicians. They had come to the conference from the many parts of the GDR where they had found new homes and new jobs.

These 400 people were a cross-section of the Germans who have come to the GDR this year at an average rate of well over 5000 monthly.

Why had they come? First of all, many young men came because they did not want to serve in an army commanded by former nazi officers. Since 1957, the West German Wehrmacht had lost more than four divisions in this way. In Democratic Germany there is no conscription and nobody needs to serve who does not want to.

"Rather ten pints of sweat for peaceful work than one drop for Adenauer's army", exclaimed Werner Meister, 21, now living in Leipzig. He left West Germany after he had received his call-up papers.

On the platform sat some of the best-known German personalities who had come to the GDR in previous years. Among them was the crack racing driver Manfred von Brauchitsch who had been persecuted in West Germany for his activities in the World Youth Festival Committee. Others included Dr. Guenter Gereke, former Deputy Premier of Lower Saxony and a member of Adenauer's party, Karl-Franz Schmidt-Wittmack, a former Christian-Democratic deputy in the Bundestag, Dr. Arthur Wegner, Professor of Canonical Law at the University of Munster, etc.

The individual experiences of the speakers who succeeded each other on the rostrum gave a many-sided picture of the true situation in West Germany today, of the rise to power of old nazis in all fields, of the increasing war preparations accompanied by the dismantling of democratic rights and of the so-called "economic miracle".

Alfred Hinrichsen, who had run a farm in the Palatinate area, told how he had lost his livelihood when his lease was abrogated this year by the landlord. He is one of more than 180 000 small farmers of West Germany who have lost their land within the past few years. In the GDR, Hinrichsen received 17 acres of land when he came over.

Paul Engerth, a stone-mason, had been fired by his employer in Westfalia because he had been too active organising for his trade union. He was black-listed by all the employers in his town.

Horst Bohl had owned a radio-repair shop in Bremen. He described how he and many other small shopkeepers and artisans in West Germany were being squeezed out more and more by the big companies and how the credit policies of the banks, which favoured the big firms, had also contributed to their ruin. Herr Bohl is a member of an artisan's co-operative in Dresden today and is earning a good income.

Reasons of conscience caused Dr von Krauss, prominent specialist in internal medicine and an opponent of atomic armament, to come here from his home in Munich. "As a doctor I am a humanitarian and I want to cure people when they are ill. The system of health insurance in West Germany, however, makes it impossible for me to prescribe the best cures for my patients when they have no money."

He mentioned an example; "Here, when I prescribe a cure in a sanatorium on a Wednesday, the patient can depart on the following Monday. In West Germany, he has to wait for three-quarters of a year." Dr von Krauss is today head physician in a Dresden hospital.

Particularly moving was the story of Erwin Mertin, a good-looking young man with black hair and a slightly Malayan or Indonesian appearance.

"I am part-foreign, but I feel that I have equal rights with all other people," he began his account. Mertin worked as a radio-technician at the large "Telefunken" plant in West Berlin. When he became engaged to a girl working at the same factory, the manager, a former official in Goering's Air Ministry and holder of top nazi war medals, called her in and said; "How can you marry an inferior Negro type — you are not a good German". When they got married nevertheless, life in the factory was made miserable for her. "She often cried nights after work," Mertin said, "and we decided that she should leave the factory."

Although he was a very good technician, he was unable to advance to a better job and was treated as a second-class human being. Today he works with his wife at the Erfurt Radio Factory. "I want to thank all my new workmates," he said, "for showing so much friendliness and solidarity towards me and because they understood that we needed help."

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

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We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

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Young Edmund Schulz from Kiel, the son of a workingman, is now studying at the university in Leipzig. "My parents could not pay for my studies, so I was permitted to enjoy the freedom of the West German student to beat carpets and play the baby-sitter. I prefer the freedom to receive a scholarship and go evenings to a library, where I can study the science of socialism."

Dieter Schreiner, ballet master from Giessen, now works in the German Democratic Republic. His reason for leaving West Germany was disgust with the corruption reigning in show business there. "When I protested about the wages of the girl dancers being reduced from 280 to 240 marks a month (about £20) and pointed out that they could not live on such a small salary, the manager said; "Don't get excited. Let the girls find a boy-friend who can pay."

We heard many more such life stories that day. There was for example the sailor who had been barred from employment by all West German shipping companies because he had helped to hide aboard his ship a young German escaping the Spanish Foreign Legion. There was the newspaper editor from Straubing who had been fired and brought to court because he had written against atomic armament.

The conference lasted only four hours. But it showed that more and more Germans, disturbed or even persecuted as a result of the growth of militarism in West Germany, see a better guarantee for the future in the German Democratic Republic.

THE ADENAUER MYTH

By Frederick Ford

A myth about West German Chancellor Adenauer is being carefully fostered in some circles today: the myth that this 83-year-old man was some sort of a hero in the resistance movement against Hitler.

The myth can be instantly dispelled by studying the authorised biography of Konrad Adenauer, published in West Germany in 1955 ("Konrad Adenauer — Die autorisierte Biographie' by Paul Weymar, Kindler Verlag, Munich). This biography shows that Konrad Adenauer was in fact always a stubborn old reactionary, but never a nazi: he regarded the nazis as crude and rather unpleasant. But it also shows that he was never anything approaching a resistance fighter.

Here are some details of his career during the nazi period, culled exclusively from the pro-Adenauer authorised biography.

1. Adenauer's pension

Soon after Hitler came to power, Adenauer was sacked as Lord Mayor of Cologne, and for a period his pension was not paid. In spring 1936, however, he was granted a pension of "about 1000 marks monthly" (biography p. 185). At the rate of exchange the ruling this represented about £900 annually. There is no indication that this pension was ever stopped by the nazi authorities at a later date.

2. Adenauer's "Resistance"

"Shortly before the outbreak of war, Adenauer travelled with his wife to Switzerland, and returned weeks later" (p. 193). At this period it was impossible for known opponents of the nazi regime to get passports for foreign travel. If Adenauer had in fact been a resistance fighter, he could easily have stayed in Switzerland.

"At that time (1943) Adenauer absolutely refused to take an active part in political affairs. When Goerdeler (of the 1944 anti-Hitler bomb plot) tried to get in touch with him ... Adenauer made it quite plain that he would have no part in any such enterprise" (p. 196).

3. Adenauer's Imprisonment

Despite his refusal to join with all decent Germans in opposing Hitler, Adenauer was in fact arrested three times, according to the authorised biography.

On June 30th 1934, at the time of the Roehm purge, he was detained for 48 hours, together with a number of generals and bankers (p. 171—173).

On August 23rd 1944, when the Gestapo made a round-up of most prominent old-time political figures, after the bomb-plot against Hitler, Adenauer was also arrested (p. 201). He was held in a detention camp in Cologne, in which he had the services of a batman who brought him breakfast in bed (p. 206), and received daily food parcels (p. 207). The book is vague about how long he stayed here, but internal evidence shows it cannot have been longer than three weeks.

In October and November 1944 he spent a further two months in prison in Brauweiler. Here too he received special treatment, and was released on instructions from the SS head office in Berlin (p. 247—248).

After his release he found nothing objectionable in hiring French slave labourers to work in his garden (p. 261).

Free Magazine Offer

Sparkling wine made from grapes grown on the banks of the Elbe River is the subject of the cover-story of the latest issue of "GDR-Review", which also has articles on swimming lessons for toddlers, toyland, and dance music in the German Democratic Republic — all with lots of illustrations and many special features.

The monthly magazine is published in English, German, Swedish, French, Arabic and Spanish.

A free trial copy, and details of how to subscribe, will be sent on application to:

GDR Review
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German Democratic Republic
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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

We have to turn to the subject of those old nazi judges in West Germany once again, I am afraid. As you know, at least 1000 of the judges and public prosecutors in West German courts today were active in similar capacities in nazi special courts and "People's Courts".

West German spokesmen have made half-hearted attempts to deny this, but their general defence is that these judges did not do anything wrong under Hitler, but just dispensed justice. The sort of justice which they dispensed is well known; but I think that a recent decision handed down by a court in West Berlin deserves special attention, since it shows quite clearly how far the process of open and public renazification has gone in West Germany and West Berlin.

Active Nazi

The case, heard by a West Berlin appeal court, concerned a certain Dr Schlueter, today Senate Councillor in the German Patent Office in Munich. In 1957 a denazification court in West Berlin had classified him as an active supporter of the nazi regime, and sentenced him to pay 50,000 marks retribution. During the nazi period Dr Schlueter had acted as prosecutor and judge in the nazi "People's Court".

The appeal court, meeting in West Berlin in November this year, cancelled the decision, and dismissed Dr Schlueter without a stain on his character. The judgement was brilliant in its clarity: Dr Schlueter had, it is true, passed severe sentences on anti-nazis; but these anti-nazis had been guilty of treason, and treason is severely punished today in West Germany. Dr Schlueter had simply carried out the nazi laws.

In other words, the nazi judges were right, and the anti-fascists were wrong. Sometimes readers object that GERMAN REPORT paints too black a picture of nazi ways in West Germany. Let them ponder this verdict, delivered in November 1959.

Lies for Fatherland

It is a pleasure for us this week to unmask the West Germany Ambassador to Australia, Dr H. Muhlenfeld, as a bare-faced liar. I know that the old adage says that ambassadors are men sent abroad to lie for their country (Sir Henry Wotton, 1568—1639), but they should not be found out.

The case of Dr Muhlenfeld goes like this: in its June-July number in 1959 the "Jewish Advocate", organ of the Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Anti-Semitism in Melbourne, Australia, published an open letter to the West German Ambassador in Canberra. This open letter summed up evidence of neo-fascist and anti-Semitic activity in West Germany, and mentioned the fact that hundreds of former nazi judges were back in office. The figure of 700 nazi judges was mentioned; in the meantime further investigations show that there are at least 1000 of these gentlemen.

The West German Ambassador wrote a reply, which was printed in the November-December issue of the same newspaper, and in his reply he stated: "The accusations against 700 former Nazi judges originate in the Communist Eastern Zone of Germany, and have first been published in a pamphlet of 23rd May 1957, printed in East Berlin. The Governments of the German Laender (provinces, ed.) have examined these accusations carefully. With the exception of fifteen cases, the examination of which is still going on, it has been proved that the Communist assertions are lies and propaganda."

This last sentence is nothing more than a bare-faced out and out lie. It is so obviously untrue that no official spokesman in West Germany has dared to make such a claim. I can only assume that Dr Muhlenfeld feels that in Australia he is so far away from Germany that nobody who knows the facts is going to hear about his record whopper; perhaps more charitably I should assume that he has been supplied with his so-called facts by the Foreign Ministry in Bonn, and has been unable to check them.

File Piles

The facts are these: the names of the former nazi judges and public prosecutors now working in the West German courts have not been selected with a pin. They have been discovered in painstaking research work on the masses of court files and files of the nazi Ministry of Justice which were not destroyed. I have handled a number of these files myself, and I have seen the serried ranks of tens of thousands of original nazi files through which the researchers have had to plough their way. If these tens of thousands of files have been forged, then it is by far the greatest act of forgery committed in human history, and one of the most wasteful, since only about one in a hundred of the files examined has produced usable evidence on former nazi judges who are now back in office.

If Dr Muhlenfeld, the next time he is back in Germany on leave, would take the trouble to come to Berlin, I would be ready to go with him and show him the original files. And this offer holds for any other responsible person who may have doubts about the authenticity of the charges made against the nazi judges back in office in West Germany today.

Delete "Arms"

I am indebted to Walter Holmes, who writes a daily "Worker's Notebook" in the London "Daily Worker", for information about a very timely change in the postal regulations with regard to parcel post between Britain and West Germany. The British Post Office Guide contains long lists telling you what you may and may not send by parcel post to various countries: no flower cuttings to the USA for instance. The September 1959 supplement to the Post Office Guide contains the following pregnant note:

"German Federal Republic. Parcel Post: prohibitions: delete 'arms'."

So if you have a spare atomic bomb around the house you may now post it to Chancellor Adenauer.

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